

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-51 are pending. Claims 1-51 stand rejected.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor for the courtesies extended to applicants' representative during the telephone interview of January 15, 2010. During that interview, it was agreed that the cited prior art (US 6,561,685 to Weber) does not anticipate the claims. It was further agreed that Weber does not disclose or suggest a double sided printed circuit board including at least one light emitting component on each of its sides, the board located transversely with respect to the elongated passage, as well as at least one of the two light emitting components projecting light along the rear area. It was further agreed that the § 102 rejection regarding Weber would be withdrawn and a new search conducted.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action sets forth at page 2, paragraph 4 "Claims 1-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Weber et al. (US 6561685)." Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention, as recited in claim 1, includes features not disclosed or suggested by Weber, namely:

... a double-sided printed-circuit board, including at least one light emitting component in each of its sides C1, C2, said board being electrically connected to a feed and control system and located transversely with respect to said elongated passage, dividing the latter into two areas, a rear area with respect to the direction of travel extending from said board to an end area adjacent to the rearview mirror and visible together with the latter, and a front area formed by the rest of the elongated passage such that one of said at least two light emitting components projects light along said rear area, this light exiting by said end area of the rear area of said elongated passage with desired horizontal and vertical angles through a transparent portion of said cover, and at least another of said two light emitting components located in the other side of said printed-circuit board projects light along said front area, this light exiting through said cover. (Emphasis added)

These features are described in applicants' specification, for example, at page 4, line 31-page 5, line 13 and Fig. 1.

The Office Action relies upon Weber as disclosing "a double sided printed circuit board, including at least one light emitting component on each of its sides ... located transversely with respect to said elongated passage, dividing the latter into two areas ... such that one of said at least two light emitting components projects light along said rear area ..." Applicants respectfully disagree with this overly broad interpretation of Weber. As is clearly shown in Weber in Fig. 2, printed circuit board 7 has LEDs 8 located on only one side of printed circuit board 7. In addition, printed circuit board 7 is located parallel with respect to the elongated passage.

In contrast, applicants' invention, as recited in claim 1, requires a double sided printed circuit board including at least one light emitting component on each of its sides and that the board is located transversely with respect to the elongated passage. Further, the printed circuit board divides the elongated passage into two areas such that one of the at least two light emitting components projects light along the rear area. These features are lacking entirely from the Weber reference.

Because Weber fails to disclose each and every feature of applicants' claimed invention, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 as being anticipated by Weber be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

Although not identical, claim 48 recites similar features to those of claim 1 and, thus, is likewise not subject to rejection for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 2-47 and 49-51 ultimately depend upon claim 1 and, thus, are likewise not subject to rejection for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

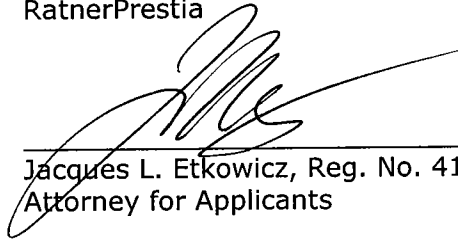
Application No. 10/591,083
Response dated January 25, 2010
In reply to Office Action of November 25, 2009

TJA-148US

In view of the remarks set forth above, applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

RatnerPrestia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Etkowicz', is written over a horizontal line.

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JLE/kpc

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